REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 8-12, 16, 17 and 19-37 are pending. By this amendment the Abstract is replaced with a substitute Abstract, the specification is amended to correct informalities, Claims 5-7, 13-15 and 18 are canceled and new Claims 26-37 are added. No new matter is added by any of the amendments. Support for the amendments can be found in the specification at page 20, line 7, et seq.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Abstract was objected to, Claims 5-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101, Claims 5 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent 6,529,788 to Tani et al. and Claims 6, 7, 14, 15 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Tani et al. in view of Parker v. Flook.

In response to the objection to the Abstract, the Abstract is replaced with a substitute Abstract. Claims 5-7 are canceled rendering the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101 moot. The rejection of Claims 5 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is moot. Cancellation of Claims 6, 7, 14, 15 and 18 renders the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Tani et al. in view of Parker v. Flook moot.

With respect to new independent Claims 26, 30 and 34, Tani et al. does not disclose calculating a useful life base conditioned formula for determining that parts are possible to reuse only in the case where a remaining useful life of parts j to be included in a reuse source product i remains more than a use period of a reuse destination product i' even if the use period of reuse source product i is elapsed, as in Claim 26, a computing device configured to calculate a useful life based condition formula for determining that parts are possible to reuse only in the case where a remaining useful life of parts j to be included in a reuse source product i remains more than a use period of reuse destination product i' even if the use period

of the reuse source product i is elapsed as in Claim 30 and a computer readable recording medium containing a computer program including instructions to calculate a useful life based condition formula for determining that parts are possible to reuse only in the case where a remaining useful life of parts j to be included in a reuse source product i remains more than a use period of reuse destination product i' even if the use period of reuse source product i is elapsed, as in Claim 34.

For example, Claim 26 recites a method for aiding product life cycle planning, which includes displaying parts on a map displayed on a display device and divided into a plurality of domains based on the threshold (S53); selecting reuse candidate parts from the display parts with reference to the displayed map (S54); calculating a useful life based condition formula for determining that parts are possible to reuse only in the case where a remaining useful life of parts j to be included in a reuse source product remains more than a use period of reuse destination parts i' even if the use period of the reuse source product i is elapsed (S55); determining whether the useful life based condition formula is satisfied (S56) and determining possibility of reuse with respect to the reuse candidate parts when the useful life based condition formula is satisfied.

Tani et al. discloses a recycling system including a recycle recovery estimating unit which estimates times when the reutilizable products, parts and raw materials are recovered as products, parts and raw materials useable for recycling as well as for their volumes, based on the recycle information stored in the recycle information memory, and a recycle product schedule setting unit which sets a production schedule of a recycle product using the reutilizable products, parts and raw materials based on the times and volumes estimated by the recycle information memory. However, Tani et al. does not disclose or suggest calculating a useful life based condition formula for determining that parts are possible to reuse only in the case where the remaining use of life of parts j to be included in the reuse

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source product i remains more than the use period of reuse destination product i' even if the use period of reuse source product i has elapsed. Specifically, <u>Tani et al.</u> does not teach determining possibility of reuse by calculating the claimed useful life-based condition formula.
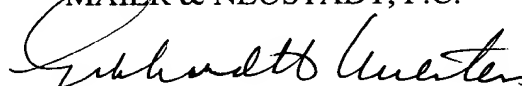
New dependent Claim 28 includes calculating a worth life based condition formula for determining that worth of parts j satisfying the useful life base condition formula continues even if time lags until production of reuse destination product i' is started, the production period of reuse source product i and the use period of reuse destination product i' are considered. This feature is not disclosed or suggested by <u>Tani</u>.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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